

ODP 935-77

17 MAY 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for
Administration

FROM : Clifford D. May, Jr.
Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT : Recording of High Density Digital Data

Mike:

1. Last week you sent me a brochure on an optical/film system for recording high density digital data. Our technical people have been following the evolution of this technology since the late 1950's. At the present time the company that published the brochure (Digital Recording Corporation) can demonstrate the technique in a laboratory setup and claims it is "commercially feasible."

2. There is no doubt that this technique offers some advantages over digital recording on magnetic media. However, until operational configurations are developed and offered commercially, we are unable to judge the cost/effectiveness of this technique compared to magnetic media. It is quite likely that the mass storage system of the future will be based on optical recordings. In the meantime, however, we can adequately satisfy our needs with magnetic techniques.

Cliff D. May, Jr.

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